

Proposed Examiners Amendment

The following is an Examiners Amendment to be entered on Allowance subject to confirmation by Applicant and subject to final search and consideration by Examiner.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15

Please add new claim 16 as follows:

16. A computer-implemented method of reducing market risk and cost for producers and consumers of manufactured products and finished goods in a global product manufacturing marketplace by transformation of inter-manufacturing root product specifications into semi-standard financial contracts based on dynamically and automatically obtained sector product information, market intelligence, business intelligence, and manufacturing industry sector information, the method comprising:

identifying a manufacturing industry sector and one or more major products of a sector of the manufacturing industry;

extracting, using a computer by agent-based filtering, industry sector, market and business intelligence information from Internet data sources, including spot and market contract products demand and pricing data;

creating, using the computer, a hierarchical product taxonomy of the one or more major products of the sector, the creating of the hierarchical product taxonomy by the computer comprising:

creating a product taxonomy tree, wherein the branches of the tree represent successively defined product and subsector product groupings, and the leaves of the tree represent root products,

extracting from a bill of materials for each product group and subgroup of the sector a set of product subgroup items,

identifying one or more dominant product subgroup items based on the value-added of the subgroup items approximately equal to or exceeding 80% of the dollar value of the product group or subgroup, wherein the value-added is based on the spot market or market contract-based purchase price of materials for each product item,

iterating the extracting, creating and identifying by further branching the product taxonomy tree for each identified dominant product subgroup, until all root products are identified based on applying Pareto's Law to the dollar value-added of the identified dominant product subgroup items at each level of the tree, and

providing, from the market and business intelligence information, a complete product specification and a homogenization of the root products for each root product represented by each leaf of the product taxonomy tree;

providing a computer database comprising the hierarchical product taxonomy tree and domain knowledge of the major products and product manufacturing sector including dynamically updated product information, market intelligence, business intelligence, and supporting industry information for the sector; and

creating, from the computer database, a semi-standard financial instrument based on each identified root product and providing the financial instrument as a contract to a financial contracts trading environment,

wherein the value and root product specifications of the financial instrument is dynamically adjusted based on a value-weighted price index of at least one underlying commodity associated with the major product group, subgroup(s), and root product specification(s) on which the semi-standard contract is based.